



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

From Milliron & Goodman Government Relations, LLC.

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House Democratic Caucus welcomes new legislator to Harrisburg

On December 13, 2021, Democratic Leader Joanna McClinton welcomed a newly elected lawmaker to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

State Rep. Gina Curry of Delaware County was sworn in at the start of today's House session by Judge Al Masland. She will begin voting on legislation this afternoon.

"Representative Curry brings tremendous energy and expertise to her new position," said McClinton, D-Phila./Delaware. "Decades of experience in education, advocacy and behavioral health, including serving as vice president of the Upper Darby School Board, will allow her to jump in on day one to contribute to debating some of the most significant issues impacting the commonwealth."

Curry was selected by voters in a special election in last month, and previously served on the Upper Darby School Board, including serving as vice-chair, where she helped oversee a \$215 million budget and the education of approximately 12,000 students. She was a career educator and advocate working with youth and families in the K-12 and collegiate environments.

Curry also worked in behavioral health as a clinical supervisor, behavioral specialist, and therapeutic consultant to children and families.

Curry's committee assignments will be announced at a later date.

Source: Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus, 12/13/2021

EPA Announces Intent to Strengthen Lead and Copper Regulations, Support Proactive Lead Service Line Removal Across the Country

On December 16, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael S. Regan announced that the agency will begin developing a new regulation to better protect communities from exposure to lead in drinking water. EPA is committed to using every tool available-statutory authority under the Safe Drinking Water Act, technical assistance, funding, and more-to protect all Americans from lead in drinking water. The agency will collaboratively work with local, state, and federal partners, to make rapid progress on President Biden's goal to remove 100% of lead service lines, with a focus on prioritizing communities disproportionately impacted by lead contamination.

"Over the past year, I have visited with and heard from communities in Chicago, Flint, Jackson, and many other areas that are impacted by lead in drinking water," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "These conversations have underscored the need to proactively remove lead service lines, especially in low-income communities. The science on lead is settled-there is no safe level of exposure and it is time to remove this risk to support thriving people and vibrant communities."

Today's announcement is a key component of the Biden-Harris administration's whole of government Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan, also announced today.

Following the agency's review of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) under Executive Order 13990, EPA has concluded that there are significant opportunities to improve the rule to support the overarching goal of proactively removing lead service lines and more equitably protecting public health. EPA is announcing a two-prong approach to strengthen this regulatory framework.

Beginning December 16, the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions will go into effect to advance critical lead service line inventories that are necessary to achieve 100% removal of lead service lines. The agency plans to issue guidance-including best practices, case studies, and templates to help develop lead service line inventories-to assist its partners in implementation of the rule.

EPA will also develop a new proposed rule, the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements, that will strengthen the regulatory framework. EPA intends to propose requirements that, along with other actions, would result in the replacement of all lead service lines as quickly as is feasible. EPA also intends to consider opportunities to strengthen tap sampling requirements and explore options to reduce the complexity and confusion associated with the action level and trigger level, with a focus on reducing health risks in more communities. The goal of these potential lead service line replacement regulatory improvements-coupled with non-regulatory actions-is to more equitably protect public health.

Additionally, EPA will allocate \$2.9 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to states, Tribes, and territories to remove lead service lines. This 2022 allocation is the first of five allotments that will provide \$15 billion in dedicated funding for lead service lines replacements. In addition to the dedicated investment in lead service lines, the Law provides an additional \$11.7 billion in general funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which can also be utilized for lead removal projects.

To see additional actions that EPA is taking under the President's action plan, visit:
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/12/16/fact-sheet-the-biden-harris-lead-pipe-and-paint-action-plan/>.

For more information on EPA's Lead and Copper Rule, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/review-national-primary-drinking-water-regulation-lead-and-copper>.

For more information on estimated 2022 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund allotments to remove lead service lines through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, visit:
www.epa.gov/infrastructure/water-infrastructure-investments

Source: EPA Press Release, 12/16/2021

PUC Highlights 2021 Accomplishments

As part of its final public meeting for 2021, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) fulfilled a longstanding custom of highlighting some of the agency's major accomplishments over the past year.

"With the lingering effects of the pandemic, 2021 was another year of challenges, but our skilled and dedicated staff never missed a beat in continuing the day-to-day work and overarching mission of our agency," said Chairman Gladys Brown Dutrieuille. "On behalf of my fellow Commissioners, I thank all PUC staff for their work, dedication and professionalism. It takes dedication and hard work from all of you, and we

are looking forward to what we can accomplish in the year to come."

2021 Accomplishments

Physical offices remained closed for the majority of this past year, yet the PUC continued to be fully operational with personnel working remotely and some returning to the office when it opened and as needed. It is important to note that:

The PUC successfully conducted every PUC Public Meeting that was scheduled for 2020 and 2021, even with the challenging circumstances.

The Commission continued telephonic or virtual evidentiary and public input hearings, along with telephonic and virtual meetings of the Damage Prevention Committee and the Consumer Advisory Council.

PUC staff continued to assist consumers through our remote consumer services hotline.

Thanks to fiscal transactions and the eFiling of documents with the Commission, the PUC continued functioning at normal levels.

The Commission achieved many important successes during 2021, including:

Filings & Resources

The Secretary's Bureau received approximately 28,000 filings submitted in 2021 and served approximately 11,000 documents, including approximately 900 Orders and 6,000 Secretarial Letters. The Commission received more than 135 Right-to-Know requests in 2021, and all were responded to in a timely manner despite the pandemic and staff working remotely.

The PUC's Office of Administrative Law Judge presided over 329 telephonic or virtual evidentiary hearings and 32 telephonic or virtual public input hearings. Our Judges also resolved 188 cases through mediation processes, and issued 216 decisions.

Consumer Issues

The Commission encouraged consumers and small businesses who may still be experiencing financial difficulty to https://www.puc.pa.gov/media/1731/callutilitiesnow_winter2021_ceo-letter_111221.pdf to discuss the options to remain connected to vital utility services. We emphasized that direct conversations between customers and utilities are the best "first step" for any Pennsylvania household or business struggling to #KeepUtilitiesOn, whether those financial difficulties are related to the COVID pandemic, the ongoing state and national recovery, or other challenging circumstances.

The PUC's consumer educators reached front-line community partners and utility customers through drop-offs of educational materials at locations statewide, along with many virtual educational events, including our annual Be Utility Wise and Be Wise consumer-education conferences.

Water/Wastewater Issues

The PUC also increased awareness for Pennsylvania consumers to #KeepUtilitiesOn with the **Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program** <https://www.pucpa.gov/press-release/2021/pa-consumers-eligible-to-participate-in-emergency-broadband-benefit-starting-may-12>.

Emergency Preparedness

Staff participated in and coordinated several emergency preparedness activities, including natural gas emergency exercises, Black Sky event committee meetings, electric grid resiliency exercises and worldwide tests that focus on emergency preparedness, business continuity, emergency response and cybersecurity plans through various scenarios.

Audits

The PUC Audits team released 32 reports covering 72 years of adjustment clauses, and reviewed and approved approximately 377 adjustment clause filings Management Audit staff released four Management Audits, two Management Efficiency Investigation reports, and the 516 Annual Report for Calendar Year 2021.

Safety Issues

The PUC increased consumer education on electric safety, safe digging and delaying the start of non-essential home digging projects to enhance safety and avoid accidental damage to underground lines that could disrupt utility services during a stressful time.

Actions were taken against 264 underground facility owners, excavators and project owners, including 1,376 disciplinary actions, representing \$671,875 in administrative penalties as part of our PA One Call enforcement jurisdiction.

The second **Damage Prevention Committee annual report**

https://www.puc.pa.gov/media/1574/dpc_annual_statistical_report2020.pdf was issued, including an overview of its Alleged Violation Reports and the subsequent actions taken, such as the issuance of warning letters, administrative penalties and locator or excavator education.

Broadband Issues

The PUC continued to encourage Pennsylvanians to stay connected through the **Emergency Broadband Benefit**

<https://www.puc.pa.gov/press-release/2021/pa-consumers-eligible-to-participate-in-emergency-broadband-benefit-starting-may-12>, a program started by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Impact Fees

The PUC distributed \$146.2 million this year through impact fees on natural gas producers - pushing the nine-year total to more than \$2 billion collected and distributed to communities across the state.

Electric Retail Markets

The Commission modified and eventually lifted the **door-to-door supplier marketing moratorium** <https://www.puc.pa.gov/press-release/2021/puc-lifts-pandemic-related-moratorium-on-door-to-door-public-event-and-in-person-energy-sales-and-marketing-activities>, and provided additional door-

to-door marketing training to electric generation suppliers (EGSs).

Electric Default Service Rate Cases

The PUC processed six default service proceedings for electric distribution companies (EDCs).

Consumer Services

The PUC's Bureau of Consumer Services handled 38,564 total complaints, including 17,745 payment arrangement requests, with staff manually working through all company-submitted Informal Complaint Reports to ensure compliance with COVID-related Commission Orders.

PUC staff also implemented technologies and virtual/online trainings to enhance customer care through the telework environment, and are working diligently to deliver additional new technologies in 2022.

About the PUC

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission balances the needs of consumers and utilities; ensures safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates; protects the public interest; educates consumers to make independent and informed utility choices; furthers economic development; and fosters new technologies and competitive markets in an environmentally sound manner.

Visit the PUC's website at <http://www.puc.pa.gov/> for recent news releases and video of select proceedings. You can also follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube. Search for the "Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission" or "PA PUC" on your favorite social media channel for updates on utility issues and other helpful consumer information.

Source: PUC Press Release, 12/16/2021

PUC Issues Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Addressing Potential Barriers to Enhancing Water and Wastewater Services

On December 16, 2021, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) today adopted a **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Order**

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.puc.pa.gov%2Fpcdocs%2F1728007.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK> (NOPR) as the latest step in the ongoing exploration of issues impacting water and wastewater utilities across the state.

The Commission voted 3-0 today to issue the proposed rulemaking order for publication and comment. Today's action follows nearly two years of PUC study and public input on water and wastewater issues, which began in early 2020 <https://www.puc.pa.gov/press-release/2020/puc-begins-rulemaking-process-addressing-potential-barriers-to-enhanced-water-and-wastewater-services-in-pennsylvania>.

The NOPR proposes to amend PUC regulations governing the application for certificates of public convenience to provide utility water or wastewater service in Pennsylvania. The proposed amendments streamline some requirements for established utilities during the process of acquisition of another water or wastewater service provider. Smaller updates are proposed to other sections to modernize requirements generally, and to distinguish between system acquisitions, service area expansions, and service to previously unserved areas.

Based on today's order, the NOPR will be submitted to the Office of Attorney General for review as to form and legality; to the Governor's Budget Office for review of fiscal impact; to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and the Legislative Standing Committees for review and comment; and to the Legislative Reference Bureau to be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Filing Written Comments

Interested parties may file written comments within 60 days of the publication of this NOPR in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, followed by a 30-day period for reply comment. Comments and reply comments must be filed using the <https://www.puc.pa.gov/filing-resources/efiling/>, via by U.S. Mail or overnight delivery using the following address:

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Attn: Secretary - Docket No. L-2020-
3017232 Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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Docket No.: L-2020-3017232

<https://www.puc.pa.gov/docket/L-2020-3017232>

Source: PUC Press Release, 12/16/2021

Gov. Wolf Announces \$17.4 Million to Improve Local Water Quality for Chesapeake Bay Watershed

On December 16, 2021, Governor Tom Wolf announced \$17.4 million in grant funding for projects in 33 counties across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, highlighting their path-breaking work to improve the health of local streams, rivers, and lakes by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution.

“Pennsylvania has begun to achieve real change to improve the health of the watershed, thanks directly to hard work being done by county-level teams of government, nonprofit, and private-sector partners,” said Gov. Wolf. “It’s crucial that their unprecedented momentum be sustained by broad support. Their actions will benefit our drinking water, protect the long-term viability of our farms and outdoor recreation economy, and help our communities reduce flooding and attract business.”

Nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) pollution and eroded sediment enter streams, rivers, and lakes from widely dispersed human activities on the land, such as using too much fertilizer, plowing and tilling farm fields, stripping away trees and vegetation, and expanding concrete and paved surfaces. Pennsylvania’s share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed spans half the state and includes over 12,000 miles of polluted streams and rivers.

The funding announced today includes \$15 million from the Pennsylvania Environmental Stewardship Fund, primarily the Growing Greener Program, and \$2.4 million from EPA. Grants support coordination of Countywide Action Plans, implementation of pollution-reducing best management practices (BMPs), and verification to ensure that BMP projects maintain their pollutant reduction goals.

“With 26 counties developing plans this year, all 34 counties that were asked to develop Countywide Action Plans to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution have now completed them,” said Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “Reaching this exciting milestone attests to the growing understanding among landowners and community leaders of the value of healthy water ecosystems to Pennsylvanians’ quality of life and livelihoods. DEP is committed to supporting these local partnerships as they follow now with action.”

The 2021 grant funding is geared toward enabling county teams and partners to build on the record progress Pennsylvania is making in the watershed.

Nitrogen runoff pollution was reduced by more than 4 million pounds in 2020, with half the reduction coming from agriculture and half from the wastewater treatment sector.

More than a half million acres of cropland were in compliance for nutrient and manure management practices last year.

Farmers used enhanced nutrient management on more than 305,500 acres of cropland in 2020. Going above and beyond standard nutrient management, this approach applies fertilizer in a 4R approach: right time, right source, right place, and right rate.

“Increasingly, farmers recognize that soil, nitrogen, and phosphorus running off the land into streams is a symptom of a farm operating at less than peak efficiency. For many, the pandemic underscored the importance of ensuring their farm’s future viability, which requires stewardship of their soil and water today,” said Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding.

In addition, last year more than 17 miles of stream were fully restored, and tens of thousands of trees were planted, many through programs by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Along with multiple state and sector initiatives, **Countywide Action Plans**

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/GetInvolved/Pages/Countywide-Action-Plans.aspx> are a key component of Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay **Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan**

[https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/Phase-III-WIP-\(Watershed-Implementation-Plans\).aspx](https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/Phase-III-WIP-(Watershed-Implementation-Plans).aspx) to improve water quality to benefit Pennsylvanians, while meeting U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements for the bay.

This year 22 counties completed individual Countywide Action Plans, and four (Blair, Cambria, Fulton, and Huntingdon) collaborated on one plan. They join Lancaster, York, Franklin, and Adams counties, which completed their plans in 2019, and Bedford, Centre, Cumberland, and Lebanon counties, which completed plans last year. Teams in all counties have begun carrying out planned projects or are transitioning to implementation.

Supporting County-Level Action for Healthy Waters

DEP leaders announced grant awards to county teams during visits today to three sites in the watershed: Brilyn Acres, small cattle grazing farm in Ephrata; the Lycoming County Conservation District in Montoursville; and the Lackawanna County Conservation District in Scott Township. The following counties received funding to coordinate and implement Countywide Action Plan projects and verify BMPs:

- Adams County Conservation District: \$177,900
- Bedford County Conservation District: \$637,047
- Bradford County Conservation District \$510,779
- Centre County Government: \$590,500
- Chester County Conservation District: \$569,954
- Clinton County Commissioners: \$344,505
- Cumberland County Commissioners: \$283,750
- Franklin County Conservation District \$1,184,222
- Lackawanna County Conservation District: \$409,379
- Lancaster County Conservation District: \$3,583,216
- Lebanon County Conservation District: \$729,796
- Lycoming County Commissioners: \$527,391
- Montour County Conservation District: \$729,331 for Montour, Columbia, and Sullivan counties.
- Snyder County Conservation District: \$966,491 for Snyder and Union Counties.
- Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission: \$253,000 for coordination and verification in Blair, Cambria, Fulton, and Huntingdon counties.

- Tri-County Regional Planning Commission: \$1,877,315 for Dauphin, Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin counties.
- York County Planning Commission: \$1,329,517

The following counties received funding to implement Countywide Action Plan projects:

- Blair County Conservation District: \$166,470
- Cambria County Conservation District: \$173,506
- Clearfield County Conservation District: \$248,691
- Fulton County Conservation District: \$204,442
- Huntingdon County Conservation District: \$311,526
- Luzerne Conservation District: \$94,962
- Northumberland County Conservation District: \$544,946
- Potter County Conservation District: \$126,415
- Schuylkill Conservation District: \$344,320
- Susquehanna County: \$239,011
- Tioga County Conservation District: \$335,729

"Achieving Lancaster County's nitrogen and phosphorus reduction goals require sustainable funding and unique support. Thanks to this kind of flexible grant from DEP, we're closer to clean and clear water. Our farms, streams, climate, and built environment will all benefit from the inspirational projects these dollars make possible," said Allyson Gibson, Strategic Partnership and Program Director of Lancaster Clean Water Partners.

"We want to do our part and implement BMPs to be a good steward of this beautiful land God has blessed us with," said the owners of Brilyn Acres farm, which will receive some grant funding to improve manure storage. "We trust that with the installation of these BMPs, we'll be helping to preserve the banks along Cocalico Creek and not have a negative impact on the water quality of the creek and surrounding streams. The BMPs will greatly improve how we handle water runoff and manure storage here at Brilyn Acres."

Pennsylvania takes a **Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities** approach to improving the health of the <https://gis.dep.pa.gov/chesapeakebaywatershed/index.html>

watershed, inviting county teams to take control of local water quality improvement, with state and other partners providing as much data, technical assistance, funding, and other support as possible. It encourages and equips counties to develop strategies and determine project sites and types that will benefit their communities and farmers, municipalities, businesses, and other landowners, while restoring the environment.

To follow the progress in the watershed, subscribe to the **Healthy Waters monthly newsletter**

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Pennsylvania%20Chesapeake%20Bay%20Program%20Office/WIP3/Pages/Newsletter.aspx>.

Source: Governor Wolf's Press Office, 12/16/2021

CBF Commends New Clean Water Grants and Urges Even Greater Investments

Shannon Gorthy, executive director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) in Pennsylvania, issued this statement after Governor Tom Wolf announced that \$17.4 million in grant funding was being awarded to projects in 33 counties to reduce pollution in local rivers, streams and lakes.

Of the total investments to support countywide action plans (CAP), \$15 million will be from the Pennsylvania Environmental Stewardship Fund, primarily the Growing Greener Program, and \$2.4 million is from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

CAPs are local strategies included in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to meet the EPA's requirements for the Bay by 2025.

Ms. Gorthy commended the latest grants and said more needs to be done:

"CBF is confident that countywide efforts will make best use of these new investments to improve local water quality.

"Pennsylvania's current Phase 3 WIP achieves less than 75 percent of the nitrogen reduction needed and requires an additional \$324 million annually. So, it will take greater and sustained commitments of technical and financial resources to get the job done.

"In Pennsylvania, the Clean Streams Fund (Senate Bill 832), proposes some of the \$250 million of the \$7 billion in ARP money the Commonwealth received go into the fund that would support the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). The ACAP is an agriculture cost-share program to fund local farm projects through county conservation districts.

"State and federal opportunities for cleaner rivers and streams exist. It's time to seize the moment and make things right for Pennsylvania and the Bay."

Source: CBF Press Release, 12/16/2021

Notice of Environmental Approval for PENNVEST Funding Consideration

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority announced it will hold a meeting on January 19, 2022, to consider Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Projects. The projects were reviewed by the Department of Environmental Protection and were found to not have any significant or adverse environmental impacts.

For more information about the approval of the following Environmental Assessments or the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Programs contact Richard Wright, Bureau of Clean Water, Department of Environmental Protection, P.O. Box 8774, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8774, (717) 772-4059, riwright@pa.gov or visit the department's website. Comments received during the comment period, along with the Department's comment and response document, will also be available on the department's website.

Source: Pennsylvania Bulletin, 12/17/2021
<http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol51/51-51/2137.html>

Gov. Wolf Announces \$240 Million from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Ensure Clean Water

On December 16, 2021, Governor Tom Wolf announced that Pennsylvania has been awarded \$240 million from President Joe Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to ensure Pennsylvanians have access to clean water.

"I am grateful for President Biden's bold vision to strengthen our infrastructure, and that he shares my commitment to invest in projects that will improve our quality of life and protect our drinking water," Gov. Wolf said. "This funding will significantly accelerate the work already underway in the commonwealth to make sure our drinking water is safe."

The governor has prioritized both lead remediation and addressing emerging contaminants such as PFAS, and this new water infrastructure project funding will be administered by PENNVEST, which utilizes an affordability formula which ensures that funding is prioritized to communities with the most significant needs and least capacity to finance needed repairs and upgrades.

The \$240 million is part of the first-year allotment of the nearly \$43.5 billion in total nationwide funding that will be provided to states, tribes and territories over the next five years through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Source: Governor Wolf's Press Office, 12/16/2021

Pennsylvania's Unemployment Rate Down to 5.7 Percent in November

On December 17, 2021, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) released its preliminary employment situation report for November 2021.

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate was down three-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 5.7 percent in November. The U.S. rate fell four-tenths of a percentage point from its October level to 4.2 percent. The commonwealth's unemployment rate was 1.4 percentage points below its November 2020 level and the national rate was down 2.5 points over the year.

Pennsylvania's civilian labor force – the estimated number of residents working or looking for work – decreased 10,000 over the month. Resident unemployment fell for the ninth consecutive month, down 18,000 in November.

Pennsylvania's total nonfarm jobs were up 13,500 over the month to 5,781,800 in November, the seventh consecutive gain. Jobs rose from October levels in 8 of the 11 industry supersectors with the largest increase in trade, transportation & utilities (+5,700). Over the year, total nonfarm jobs were up 144,000 with gains in 10 of the 11 supersectors. Leisure & hospitality had the largest 12-month gain, up 46,300 jobs from last November. All supersectors remained below their February 2020, pre-pandemic job levels.

Additional information is available on the L&I website at <http://www.dli.pa.gov/>.

Note: The above data are seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted data provide the most valid month-to-month comparison. A breakdown of Pennsylvania's employment statistics follows.

Source: PA Department of Labor & Industry, 12/17/2021

Pennsylvania One Call Again Hits One Million Tickets for 2021

On Wednesday December 9, 2021 at 5:00 PM EST, Pennsylvania One Call System Inc. received their millionth dig notification for the year.

There are millions of miles of buried utilities beneath the surface of the earth that are vital to everyday living like water, electricity and natural gas, and Pennsylvania One Call System Inc., dba Pennsylvania 811, is the company you contact before digging to protect yourself and others from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines.

Everyday homeowners and professional excavators contact 811 three business days before they are digging to avoid damaging vital utility lines. This helps to prevent unintended consequences such as injury to you or your family, damage to your property, utility service outages to the entire neighborhood and potential fines and repair costs.

Since 1972, Pennsylvania 811 has received over 19,724,150 Dig Notifications from homeowners, designers, and professional excavators. However, this was the second time in its forty-nine-year history that the Pennsylvania 811 received a million notifications in one year! The millionth ticket was called in to Pennsylvania 811 call center to install a fiber optic line via micro trenching.

The first year Pennsylvania 811 reached a million dig notifications was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019. With the recent passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pennsylvania 811 anticipates that construction and utility rehabilitation projects throughout Pennsylvania will be at all-time high and reaching over a million notifications annually will be the new trend. To ensure that these new complex projects are efficiently managed, Designers and Excavators should always use Pennsylvania 811 Coordinate PA web application to safely manage and coordinate their complex underground construction projects with existing underground facility owners.

Remember, to protect yourself, coworkers and the general public from hitting or damaging underground utility lines, always contact 811 before

you start any digging project! By contacting 811 you will avoid injury, expense, embarrassment and a very inconvenient day without critical services like electricity, water, gas, internet or phone.

Source: Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc.,
12/16/2021

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This newsletter provides general information, not legal advice as to any specific matter. It should not be used as a substitute for appropriate legal advice.